(ii) Free medical facilities in all Central Government hospitals and in hospitals run by PSUs under the control of the Bureau of Public Enterprises, C.G.H.S. facilities have also been extended to freedom fighters and their dependents;

(iii) Telephone connection, subject to feasibility, without installation charges, and on payment of only half and rental;

(iv) General Pool residential accommodation (within the overall 5% discretionary quota) to freedom fighters in Delhi;

(v) Widow/widower of the freedom fighter is also permitted to retain the accommodation for a period of six months after the death of the freedom fighter; and

(vi) Accommodation in the Freedom Fighters' Home set up at New Delhi for freedom fighters who have no one to look after them.

In addition to the above facilities, ex-Andaman freedom fighters are also entitled to the following facilities:

Free voyage facility for freedom fighter and widow, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion; and

(a) Free air travel facility for freedom fighter, to visit Andaman & Nicobar Islands, once a year, along with a companion.

All major facilities provided to freedom fighters are also extended to their widows/widowers.

Unemployed tribal graduates registered in Employment Exchanges

2351. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the actual number of unemployed tribal graduates in the country registered with Employment Exchanges and steps taken to absorb them in various jobs;

(b) the steps taken by Government for skill and capacity building of those unemployed tribal graduates to enable them to carry out various self employment schemes; and

(c) the States where such unemployment is existing more?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per the information available from the employment exchanges, as on 31st December 2003, around 1.68 lakh scheduled tribe (graduates and above) job seekers, all of whom may not necessarily be unemployed, were registered with the employment exchanges for employment.

(b) Seats are reserved as per reservation quota fixed by the government in Industrial Training Institutes and apprenticeship training for imparting skill training. Twenty two coaching cum-guidance centres for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes functioning in twenty two States/Unicn Territories are also imparting vocational training and guidance through their various programmes like special coaching scheme, computer training, and training in typing and shorthand, etc.

(c) Significant number of tribal job seekers (graduate & above) registered with the employment exchanges as on December 2003 were Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, etc

Jobless plantation workers in Kerala

2352. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large sections of workers have been rendered jobless, due to closure of plantations in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of closure of plantations and loss of employment;

(c) whether proposals of schemes for rehabilitation of the employees have been forwarded to Government by the State;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has intimated that in Kerala a total number of 31